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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

Pursuant to the proposed revisions to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, please amend the claims as follows. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 99% sequence identity to the entire length of the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof, wherein said polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.
- 5-6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 99.5% sequence identity to the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.
- 8-9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a subsequence of the polynucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, said subsequence comprising nucleic acid residues at positions corresponding to position 1 to position 909 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof.

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11. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 10, wherein the subsequence promotes the expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the subsequence is operably linked.

12-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues in a region corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 830-835 or 841-844 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

22. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 21, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a deletion of nucleotide residues at positions corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 830-835 or 841-844 of the consensus sequence.

23. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 22, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a deletion of the nucleotide residues at positions corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 830-835 and 841-844 of the consensus sequence.

24-25. (Canceled)

26. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the nucleic acid comprises an insertion of a nucleotide residue, as compared to the human Towne CMV promoter polynucleotide sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:20, after the nucleotide residue corresponding to that positioned at position 853 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

27. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues in a region corresponding to nucleic acid residue positions 684-735 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21, or to a complementary sequence thereof, wherein said polynucleotide sequence

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promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

28. (Previously Presented) The isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of claim 27, wherein the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of nucleotide residues corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 684-735 of the consensus sequence.

29-30. (Canceled)

31. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence comprising nucleic acid residues at nucleic acid residue positions corresponding to position 1 to position 930 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 31, wherein the nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence comprising nucleic acid residues at nucleic acid residue positions corresponding to positions 1 to 932 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues in a region corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 319-512 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21, or the complementary sequence thereof, wherein said polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

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36. (Previously Presented) The isolated or recombinant nucleic acid of claim 35, wherein the isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprises a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of nucleotide residues corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 319-512 of the consensus sequence.

37-43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to form an expression cassette.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 44, wherein the polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of a viral polypeptide, an immunogen, an immunomodulatory molecule, an antigen, an adjuvant, an allergen, an antibody, a bacterial toxin, a cytokine, a cytokine receptor, an enzyme, and a co-stimulatory molecule.

47. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46, wherein the polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid encodes an antigen selected from the group consisting of a cancer antigen, a hepatitis B surface antigen, a hepatitis A antigen, and a hepatitis C antigen.

48. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 46, wherein the polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid encodes a co-stimulatory polypeptide that binds to a CD28 or CTLA-4 receptor.

49-61. (Canceled)

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62. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 1.
63. (Original) The vector of claim 62, wherein the vector is an expression vector.
64. (Original) The vector of claim 62, wherein the vector is selected from a plasmid, a cosmid, a phage, a virus or fragment thereof, a bacterial artificial chromosome (BAC), a yeast artificial chromosome (YAC).
65. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant cell comprising the nucleic acid of claim 1.
66. (Original) The cell of claim 65, wherein the cell comprises a human cell.
- 67-73. (Canceled)
74. (Previously Presented) A method of producing a polypeptide, the method comprising:
- (a) providing a population of cells comprising a nucleic acid of claim 1 operably linked to a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide; and
 - (b) expressing the polypeptide in at least a subset of the population of cells or progeny thereof.
75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 74, wherein the population of cells is provided by introducing the nucleic acid operably linked to the polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid into the population of cells.
76. (Original) The method of claim 74, further comprising isolating the polypeptide from the cells.
77. (Original) The method of claim 74, wherein the cells are in culture.

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78. (Original) The method of claim 77, comprising expressing the polypeptide by culturing the population or subset of the population of cells or progeny thereof in a nutrient medium under conditions in which the nucleic acid promotes expression of the polypeptide.

79. (Original) The method of claim 78, further comprising isolating or recovering the polypeptide from the cells or from the nutrient medium.

80-92. (Canceled)

93. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a nucleic acid of claim 1.

94. (Previously Presented) A kit comprising a vector of claim 62.

95-105. (Canceled)

106. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant nucleic acid comprising a polynucleotide sequence that has at least 99% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 but lacks the nucleotide residues corresponding to the first exon, or the complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof, wherein the polynucleotide sequence promotes expression of a nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide to which the polynucleotide sequence is operably linked.

107. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide sequence or complementary polynucleotide sequence thereof promotes expression of a polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid in a mammalian cell, wherein said polypeptide is capable of inducing an immune response.

108-112. (Canceled)

113. (Previously Presented) A vector for expression of a polypeptide in a mammalian cell comprising a promoter, said promoter comprising a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99% sequence identity to the entire length of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8, wherein said

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promoter is capable of directing transcription of a heterologous coding sequence operably linked downstream of the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter.

114. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, wherein the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter is linked directly to the heterologous coding sequence.

115. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, further comprising an origin of replication positioned upstream of and operably linked to the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter.

116. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, further comprising a polyadenylation region positioned downstream of and operably linked to the polynucleotide sequence of the promoter.

117. (Canceled)

118. (Previously Presented) An isolated or recombinant cell transfected with a vector comprising the vector of claim 113.

119. (Previously Presented) The isolated or recombinant cell of claim 118, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

120. (Canceled)

121. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 4.

122. (Previously Presented) A vector comprising at least one nucleic acid of claim 7.

123. (Canceled)

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124. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 27, wherein the polynucleotide sequence has at least 99.5% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues in a region corresponding to nucleic acid residue positions 684-735 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21, or to a complementary sequence thereof.

125. (Previously Presented) The nucleic acid of claim 35, wherein the polynucleotide sequence has at least 99.5% sequence identity to a nucleotide sequence which comprises the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8 with a deletion of one or more nucleotide residues in a region corresponding to nucleotide residue positions 319-512 of the consensus sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:21.

126. (Previously Presented) The vector of claim 113, wherein said promoter comprises a polynucleotide sequence having at least 99.5% sequence identity to the entire length of the sequence of SEQ ID NO:8.

These amendments are made without prejudice and are not to be construed as abandonment of the previously claimed subject matter or agreement with any objection or rejection of record.